FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

14 DECEMBER 1984

Lebanon

The atmosphere in southern Shi'ite villages was "tense" after Israeli troops detained "scores" of people in the 13 December operation against "terrorist cells," Jerusalem radio reported. The IDF killed one "terrorist" who was "trying to escape," and a local girl was also killed by Israeli fire, the radio said, but the death of a third person was the result of a family feud and was unrelated to the IDF operation. Seven other Lebanese were wounded in the raids on five villages near Tyre. The Israelis seized large quantities of arms and ammunition and their captives include a terrorist band of six persons caught with their weapons, the radio disclosed. Two IDF soldiers were subsequently wounded in an ambush in the Tyre area, IDF radio reported.

In remarks reported by Beirut radio, Minister for Southern Affairs and Reconstruction Nabih Birri urged southerners to denounce Israel's "new crime" and to stage a general strike in protest on 15 December.

Meanwhile, after bad weather forced the postponement of the 13 December talks at Al-Naqurah, the UNIFIL spokesman announced that the next meeting will be held on 17 December, according to Beirut radio.

In West Beirut, a senior Druze officer in the Lebanese Army's 6th Brigade was assassinated by gunmen early on 14 December, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. Security sources cited by WAKH accused Israel's Mosad of staging the attack in an attempt to explode the security situation.

Israel

Relations With Egypt — Egyptian Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has told the Israeli ambassador in Cairo that Egypt is willing to discuss the Tabah issue in alternate talks at Beersheba and Ismailia, Jerusalem television announced. Noting that the Egyptians had previously demanded that the talks be held in a neutral country, the television described the change in Egypt's position as a "breakthrough." Earlier, the daily *HA'ARETZ* viewed a recent meeting between local Israeli and Egyptian police commanders at the Tabah border crossing as a "significant, positive turning point" in Israeli-Egyptian relations in Tabah, pointing out that the two sides made agreements on cooperation and the exchange of information.

North African Affairs

Tunisian-Libyan Relations — Tunisia is "not pleased" with the presence in Libya of Tunisian opposition groups receiving military training, and wishes to draw Libya's attention to this "abnormal" situation, Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji Caid Esebsi stated in a KUNA interview. He called on Libya to close the camps and expel the Tunisian groups, asserting that such a decision would "positively affect" bilateral relations.

Mauritanian Coup — Libya officially recognized the new Mauritanian regime in a cable from the Libyan foreign liaison secretary to the Mauritanian foreign minister, JANA reported. Nouakchott radio has not been heard to confirm AFP reports that former Mauritanian President Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala has returned to Nouakchott.

Iran

The U.S. Administration has exercised "a form of press censorship" over remarks made by two U.S. passengers from the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner because their "praise" for Iran's efforts to release them "angered" the U.S. authorities, according to an IRNA dispatch from Washington cited by Tehran radio.

Gulf Affairs

Following the recent hijacking of a Kuwaiti airliner, the GCC General Secretariat has begun contacts with member countries to take "certain collective measures" to fend off the dangers threatening the security of the Gulf countries, GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Bisharah disclosed in a television interview reported by WAKH. As for the GCC radio station which began broadcasting from Kuwait to cover the GCC summit, Bisharah indicated that it will shortly resume transmission on a permanent basis, with member states each providing 2-hours of the daily output.

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Fatherland Front Holds Plenum, Issues Resolution
LD132346 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Excerpt] The participants in the fifth plenum of the National Fatherland Front [NFF] Central Council invited all noble and working people of Afghanistan to organize and unite further around the DRA NFF for the defense of the humane policy of the party and the revolutionary government and the gains of the glorious April revolution, for the construction of the new and blossoming society of revolutionary Afghanistan, and to defend their homes with their revolutionary and patriotic work for the decisive elimination of the rebel bands.

The fifth plenum of the DRA NFF was held this morning in the hall of the Front's Central Council in order to discuss practical measures for further enhancing the role of the NFF regarding the unity of the country's patriotic forces headed by Saleh Mohammad Ziray, Politburo member, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, and chairman of the NFF Central Council.

Members of the Politburo, of the PDPA Central Committee, of the Revolutionary Council and Council of Ministers, of the NFF Central Council, and chairmen and vice chairmen of the provincial councils, chairmen of the city and district councils of the provinces, chairmen and vice chairmen of Kabul's regional councils and districts of Kabul Province, and a number of the national and patriotic personalities of the country took part in the work of the plenum.

The BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY correspondent reports that at the beginning of the plenum session, Saleh Mohammad Ziray read out the report of the executive delegation of the NFF Central Council on the activities of the Front during the period between the two plenums, on practical measures for further enhancing the role of the NFF in the unity of the country's patriotic forces, and necessary proposals on the development and evolution of the NFF.

The report regarded as successful the relentless work of the NFF Central Council for the further development and evolution of the NFF and for the expansion of its councils in the capital and in the provinces of the country, and adds: During the interim period between the 4th and 5th plenums of the NFF Central Council, the networks of councils have been extended and 2 provincial councils, 17 district councils, 3 city councils, 10 subdistrict councils, 289 village and hamlet councils, and 477 residential councils — a total of 808 councils — have been added to the organizational structure; patriotic activities are now carried out throughout the country by 1,834 NFF councils.

The report adds that the NFF councils have been cooperating with the party and government organs on the normalization of the situation in the localities; the consolidation of nationwide peace; the creation of public welfare institutions; the restoration and repair of schools, mosques, hospitals, and roads; and economic development, including sowing and agricultural production, as well as medical services, training and education, and making the localities green and prosperous. They have organized voluntary and joint work in various fields.

The BIA correspondent adds that nine representatives of the social organizations expressed their views about the basic report of the plenum and gave their assurance on further work of their respective organizations for the implementation of the resolution of the fifth plenum of the NFF Central Council.

In the second part of the plenum's work, the organizational issues of the NFF Central Council were discussed and, on the basis of the proposal of the Executive Delegation of the Front's Central Council, the Central Council of Kabul University's social activities and the national Olympic committee, were elected members of the Central Council and members of the Executive Delegation of the NFF.

The work of the plenum ended after the issuing of a resolution and a message addressed to the noble and working people of Afghanistan and calling for the implementation of the decisions of the plenum; for the consolidation of the unity of all national, patriotic, and democratic forces of the country; for the construction of the new, proud and blossoming society of Afghanistan.

Message to People Reported
LD140315 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Message of the Fifth Plenum of the DRA National Fatherland Front's Central Council addressed to the people of Afghanistan — date not given]

[Text] Dear compatriots:

The Fifth Plenum of the National Fatherland Front Central Council is held while we are on the threshold of celebrating the 20th founding anniversary of the PDPA. The PDPA during the past 20 years of its political life has followed a long, difficult, and complicated path. However, its path has been honorable. It changed from an opposition party to a ruling party after the victory of the glorious April revolution and has undertaken leadership of the society. During this period, it has gained very useful experience in various political and socio-economic fields, has undertaken a formidable responsibility for the masses and their liberation from the long lasting social and national oppression, and has constructed a flourishing and new society in revolutionary Afghanistan.

Our beloved party ever since its creation has embodied in its action program the unity and cohesion of the national-democratic and patriotic forces, nationalities, tribes, and various clans residing in our beloved homeland, and has taken practical steps to implement this formidable and important task after the victory of the April revolution, particularly its new development stage.

The PDPA is dear to the people of Afghanistan, particularly from the point of view that it successfully directed the April revolution and creatively managed its new development stage, consolidating it on the basis of applying the experience of revolutionary struggles. The party developed the national and democratic revolution in our beloved country, and ended the socio-economic (?exploitation by) feudal rulers and usurers. The PDPA proclaimed land

and water reforms in the interest of the peasants, and specified and consolidated the legality of respecting the rights and freedoms of the country's people. The PDPA provided all necessary conditions for the performance and offering of religious rituals; it stabilized in the National Fatherland Front the new relations of respect, confidence, cooperation, and fraternity between all national and patriotic forces in their joint activities for the construction and blossoming of our beloved country, revolutionary Afghanistan. We can say explicitly that if the shameless imperialist interference, headed by the U.S., did not exist, these gains would have been many times deeper and broader.

It must be pointed out that this shameless interference and undeclared war of imperialism, led by the criminal U.S. imperialism and its accomplices, has inflicted harm on our people.

U.S. imperialism, international reaction, and the heretic leaders of Beijing, are arming and financing reactionary forces in Pakistan and Iran, enlisting and training them. They carry out armed interference in the affairs of our country. They savagely invade the homes of our people and murder children and the elderly; they set fire to schools and hospitals, and explode bridges, roads, and buildings. They savagely attack our villages.

U.S. imperialism has faced shameful defeats in various corners of the world. However, it does not give up its criminal and beastly behavior, and now is trying to destroy all mankind by triggering a nuclear war.

Dear compatriots, workers, peasants, soldiers, officers, tradesmen, progressive intelligentsia, entrepreneurs, national traders, noble ulema and clergy, followers of various religions; nationalities, tribes, and clans residing in the beloved country:

The participants of the fifth plenum of the National Fatherland Front Central Council invite you to organize and unite further around the DRA National Fatherland Front for the defense of the humane policy of the party, the revolutionary government, the gains of the glorious April revolution, and for the construction of a new and blossoming society in revolutionary Afghanistan, under the leadership of the PDPA and its proud Politburo, led by the beloved and dear Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council. Join your party and the revolutionary government with your work. You must work to eliminate decisively the criminal and barbarous bands — these servants of rupee and dollar — and defend your homes and dwellings. United people will not be defeated; this is the lesson of history.

Dear compatriots, wherever you are, rise up for restoring nationwide peace and calmness in our beloved homeland by your revolutionary and patriotic work and struggle.

Carry out a united action for eliminating oppression, poverty, illiteracy, and exploitation. Condemn the shameless and criminal actions of U.S. imperialism and its criminal accomplices, particularly the militarist Government of Pakistan which has been transformed into a springboard and center for imperialist conspiracies against our revolutionary homeland. Condemn the black reaction of Iran, the adventurist hegemonists of Beijing, and reaction of the region, who have waged an undeclared war against our innocent and noble people and shamelessly interfere in our internal affairs; and expose their conspiracies and give a crushing reply from your heated trenches to repulse the aggression of these robbers with a crushing and united fist. All the progressive and peace-loving humanity of the world socialist countries, led by the great Soviet Union — this long lasting and historic friend of the people of Afghanistan — are all on your side.

Support the traditional friendship of the Soviet Union — which defends the independence and territorial integrity of revolutionary Afghanistan — with the people of Afghanistan, and express your full solidarity with its peaceful and rational policy. The major points of it are carefully outlined and reflected in the recent proposals of the CPSU and the Soviet Government for securing world peace and removing international tensions in various fields.

The AAPSO conference on a new world information order which was held recently in Kabul at the initiative of AAPSO and at the invitation of the DRA Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organization, was a major step and a new phase in the international struggle against information imperialism, particularly in regard to conspiracies against our country, our national and democratic revolution.

On behalf of all working, peace-loving, fighting, and revolutionary people of Afghanistan, the National Fatherland Front Central Council is grateful for the issuing of the message addressed to the people of our country by this conference. To defend our national revolution — independent and revolutionary Afghanistan — we ask all the noble people of the country to continue their relentless and indefatigable struggles on the path of explaining aspirations and implementing resolutions. [words indistinct] we are confident that we are going to build a just society in our beloved homeland; and in this sacred task we are not alone. All progressive and peace-loving forces in the world, national liberation movements, workers, and toilers of the world are supporting and defending us.

Let the imperialist and reactionary circles know that the people of Afghanistan, under the banner of the PDPA and the national flag of the DRA in the National Fatherland Front, are united and are becoming closer with each other. They have the ability to defend their homeland and revolution.

SPA: Mujahidin Shoot Down Soviet Plane 29 Nov

LD132125 Riyadh SPA in English 1916 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] London, Dec 13, SPA — Afghan mujahidin shot down a Soviet plane near Tarin Kowt, the capital of Oruzgan province, central Afghanistan, on November 29, the AGENCY AFGHAN PRESS reported today. The mujahidin downed a Soviet plane during a bombardment and the two men crew were killed, the agency added.

In Farah, mujahidin equipped with rocket launchers destroyed a security post near Dakva town killing several Soviet-Karmal troops and seizing sizeable quantities of arms and ammunition.

In Qandahar, a high-ranking official of the Karmal intelligence department KHAD joined the mujahidin with his family.

After contacts with the mujahidin commander, Ghafour Jan, the KHAD officer asked to join the resistance movement, the agency said.

FRG TV: Hunger Threatens 500,000 Afghans

DW131227 Mainz ZDF Television Network in German 2045 GMT 12 Dec 84

[Announcer-read report from the "Heute-Journal" program — DW]

[Text] Paris — Nearly 500,000 people in Afghanistan are threatened by hunger. This was reported by the French welfare organization Medicin sans Frontiers. Drought and bad weather has caused heavy damage to crops, especially in the Afghan provinces bordering on Iran and the Soviet Union. Moreover, large-scale military operations by the Soviet and Afghan troops against the resistance fighters have caused damage.

According to the report, the shortage of basic foodstuffs is also revealed by price increases of about 64 percent for wheat and 73 percent for rice.

Protocol With CSSR To Increase Trade by 12 Percent

LD130825 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 11 Dec 84

[Text] Kabul, December 10, BAKHTAR — The volume of trade between the DRA and Czechoslovakia is to increase by 12 per cent during 1985. This is stipulated in the protocol on trade exchange for the year 1985 signed between the DRA and Czechoslovak Socialist Republic at the end of second session of the Joint DRA-Czechoslovak Commission. Under the protocol the Czechoslovak side will finance a number of developmental projects in the spheres of industries, mining, energy and transport and in preparing economic and technical feasibility studies. The protocol was signed from the Afghan side by Abdul Salam, deputy-minister of commerce of the DRA and from the Czechoslovak side by Jaroslav Jakubec, deputy foreign trade minister of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

Foreign Secretary Criticizes Pakistan

BK140329 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Text] India has told Pakistan that its actions in recent modnths are not conducive to improvement of relations between the two countries. PTI says that the foreign secretary, Mr Rasgotra, has written to his Pakistani counterpart, Mr Niaz Naik, that the two countries have to judge each other by concrete actions and not by mere profession of friendly sentiments. He said that a persistent gap cannot but make suspicion and misgivings grow. Mr Rasgotra has mentioned some glaring instances of the actions like Pakistan's tie up with terrorists, the arming of hijackers on the Indian Airlines plane and Islamabad's refusal to return the earlier hijackers or even to put them on trial. He also mentioned the manner in which Sikh extremists from the third countries were allowed to indulge in highly objectionable activities at Nankana Sahib.

Punjab Ban on Reporting 'Agitation' Extended

BK140332 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Text] The Punjab government has extended to another 2 months the ban on reporting, transmission, publication, or otherwise disseminating any matter relating to the current agitation in the state and the operations of the security forces. A notification to this effect was issued in Changdigarh.

Final Preparations To Dispose of Poison Gas

BK170519 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Excerpts] In Bhopal, preparations are in full swing to dispose of leftover methyl isocyanate gas in the storage tank of the Union Carbide factory. Scientists and technical experts are busy giving final touches to the safety measures to be adopted. The entire operation is likely to continue for 5 days.

NATIONAL HERALD on Relations With Pakistan

BK101415 Delhi NATIONAL HERALD in English 27 Nov 84 p 7

[By D.R. Goyal: "Will Zia Listen to People? Crux of India-Pakistan Relations"]

[Text] Notwithstanding all the public relation gimmicks of General Ziaul Haq and his friends in India, Islamabad's activities continue to be perceived as a serious threat to India's security. Late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had been all the time prodding the nation to remain vigilant about military regime's feverish quest for more arms. The other day Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Defence Minister S.B. Chavan reiterated the warning while addressing the Indian Air Force commanders biannual conference. The Prime Minister alerted the defence forces to be prepared to face the possibility of the U.S. arms supplied to Pakistan ostensibly for use against Afghanistan being 'redirected against us'. The Defence Minister pointed to the dangers posed by the 'activities of several foreign agencies in the affairs of our other neighbours.'

It reminded me of the various conversations that I recently had with the leaders of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan in Kabul. In their opinion Islamabad's relations with neighbours could not improve as long as the rulers there continued to be guided and controlled from Washington. "So many times have we come close to a settlement" they pointed out, "but every time there has been a last minute hitch. Pakistan foreign minister visits Washington and the tune changes."

Threat to Pakistan from northwest is a bogey used to provide an alibi for pumping more arms into that country. Kabul had repeatedly declared its intention to come to a negotiated settlement. For the DRA peace is a genuine necessity because the state of undeclared war is coming in the way of implementing the development programmes which the Karmal leadership is so keen about carrying out.

All the political parties in Pakistan have been pressing for recognition of and normalisation of relations with the DRA. If the military regime responds to the popular sentiment in the country the danger that they perceive from the north can be obviated and there would be no need to induct any more weapons. In that event relations with India would immediately improve and a new era of cooperation for development in the region would start.

Instead of making a cheeky statement after the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi that Rajiv Gandhi would be able to usher in a new era in Indo-Pak relations because he belongs to a generation free from the bitterness of partition if General Ziaul Haq had contemplated these realities he might have changed his course. As it is the statement is more an insult to the memory of the departed Indian leader than a gesture of goodwill.

The responsibility for changing course of Indo-Pak relations from confrontation to cooperation lies squarely with Islamabad because all the sources of tension are rooted there. So far as New Delhi is concerned there can be no cause for complaint. Indian leadership was the first to take initiative for leaving behind the bitterness of partition and develop a good-neighbourly relationship. It is Pakistani leadership that has been rejecting the hand of friendship every time it has been extended. It is Pakistan that invaded the state of Jammu and Kashmir in 1947 and continues to occupy a part of Indian territory.

With Simla Agreement of 1972 India sought to usher in a new era by releasing 93,000 prisoners of war and agreeing to solve all problems between the two countries bilaterally without use of force. Gen Ziaul Haq has honoured that only in frequent breach so that his talk about no-war pact sounds hollow and hypocritical.

Afghanistan is facing a similar situation. When I asked Prime Minister Keshtmand what his government was doing to reassure Pakistan he replied; "It is not we who have to do something. The responsibility lies entirely with Islamabad. It is they who have been violating our borders."

"But they have also lodged so many complaints about violation of their territory," I pointed out. To this his reply was: "Whenever we have lodged a protest we have provided documentary evidence. Islamabad has not been able to produce a shred of evidence."

It is quite clear that the Ziaul Haq regime is only interested in keeping the pot boiling so that they may provide justification for receiving arms aid from the USA and China. Islamabad also needs to give reason to the people of Pakistan for providing strategic facilities to China and the USA.

That there are no foreign bases in that country is no more than a pro forma assertion. Everybody knows that the harbours of Karachi, Sibi and Gwadar are being readied for use by the U.S. and Chinese fleets in the Indian Ocean. Advisers and instructors of both countries have been working on the Makran coast for two years. The Chinese military personnel have been active in the north also, not only for training Afghan counter-revolutionaries but also for developing roads and airports in the occupied Kashmir which can be used for coordinating Islamabad, Beijing military cooperations in the region.

Even now what has been the performance of Zia regime after the Martial Law Administration's glib talk about turning a new leaf? The activity to get Hawkeye aircraft from the USA was stepped up and the patrons of military regime succeeded in deciding to expedite the supplies. General Vessey is visiting Islamabad immediately after discussions at NATO headquarters to assess the Pakistani requirements so that more supplies may be sent. And at Nanakana Saheb the Zia regime gave full support to secessionist elements coming from U.S., Canada, UK and West Germany to spit poison against India. What can be more unfriendly than not looking after even the personal security of an Indian liaison officer accompanying the pilgrims.

Enough evidence is now available that anti-India extremists receive weapons training in Pakistan in the same way as the Afghan rebels have been receiving for the last six years and more. To say that the long border between India and Pakistan is difficult to seal, as President Zia says, is to shirk responsibility. The only conclusion that can be drawn from all this is that the Islamabad regime is not interested in peaceful and good-neighbourly relations with India.

Apologists of General Zia in this country argue that Pakistan regime wants friendship with India because people of Pakistan so desire. Secondly, they say, Pakistan is bound to be the loser in any war with India. Another argument advanced is that conflict with India is contrary to the interests of socio-economic development in both the countries.

All the arguments are valid but the only flaw is that they do not take into account the historical reality; despite all these considerations the rulers of Pakistan have thought it fit to carry on confrontation for all these years. They also ignore another important political reality, that is, that the regime in Pakistan is not a representative regime and does not reflect the aspirations of the people. Ever since the murder of Jinnah (it is seriously doubted that he died a natural death) and Liaqat Ali Khan that country has been ruled by puppets installed by Washington.

Never has a leader or government with roots among the people, who genuinely wanted to develop good relations with India, been allowed to survive. The latest example is Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto. As long as he was talking of a thousand years long war with Hindu, India and playing a role assigned to him in regard to Iran, Afghanistan and China he was the darling of the Americans. The moment he became a true representative of people, and became friendly with Indira Gandhi he was eliminated, not politically but physically.

In this context I am reminded of a remark which President Babrak Karmal made in the course of a long conversation. He said, "We do not forget that Pakistan is an artificial creation of imperialism to serve as an instrument of their aggressive designs in this region. It could have outgrown that dismal role if people's will could prevail and the country had developed an independent policy."

It is a very profound and perceptive observation. As long as Islamabad remains tied to the apron strings of Pentagon it is futile to hope that its relations with India would improve. There being no chance of India becoming a U.S. surrogate like Pakistan, Washington would continue its efforts to pressurise New Delhi. When it is found that Ziaul Haq cannot do the job he would be changed as happened in the case of Iskander Mirza, Ayub Khan and Yahya Khan. It is in the interest of the survival of Ziaul Haq and of Pakistan that he listen to the voice of people rather than to the puppet-makers in Washington. But will he?

JASARAT Examines Implications of Referendum

GF071313 Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 3 Dec 84 p 3

[Editorial: "The Referendum and Its Implications"]

[Excerpts] The referendum announced by President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq for the consolidation of his policies and his election as president for the next 5 years does not allow for discussion of its merits and demerits at this time. There is not much reason to do so either, because when it is decided to hold a referendum, it will be held, come what may. It would be more appropriate to ponder over its practical aspects in a positive manner instead of debating its legitimacy.

The first question that arises in this context is: If President Ziaul Haq succeeds in obtaining a positive vote, will the presidential system be instituted in the country? This system has immense authority as it is elected by the peoples' votes. But after some consideration, this system was considered unsuitable for the country, and the parliamentary system was implemented. If we do not continue with a parliamentary system, it will mean that the 1973 Constitution has been abrogated because it is parliamentary in essence and nature. If we plan to institute presidential rule instead of a parliamentary system, then we should anticipate the concomitant implications and resulting problems. When people are giving votes of confidence to a president for the next 5 years, they should be aware of the extent and nature of the powers of the president. Will he follow the U.S., French, or British example?

Clarification is necessary regarding the referendum: It merely pertains to President Ziaul Haq and confidence or diffidence toward his policies, and has no connection with support of, or opposition to, Islam. Pakistan is an Islamic country and the decision to implement an Islamic system had been taken even before it came into existence, and has been confirmed in the objective resolution and the 1973 Constitution. Islam is not the disputed factor.

Another ambiguity is that if a negative vote is obtained, what will happen? How will President Ziaul Haq transfer power and what modus operandi will be adopted so that there will be no anarchy and elections can be held peacefully?

JASARAT Discusses Elections, 'Red Storm'

GF140831 Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 10 Dec 84 p 3

[Editorial: "The Red Storm — Precautions Against It"]

[Excerpts] President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq said in his address at a rally in Faisalabad that a referendum is no substitute for elections, and that the government will have completed the electoral process by 23 March 1985.

Undoubtedly the need for institutions representing the people has been greatly enhanced by the fact that there are dangers lurking on the border, and that the defense of the country demands that the Armed Forces should concentrate their attention on their defense responsibilities. For this reason, it is necessary that the Armed Forces return to their barracks, because if martial law continues, the patriotic political elements of the country cannot play their political role under a military government.

President Gen Ziaul Haq has said that we will never let the Red storm enter Pakistan. This is indeed a commendable stance, but a Red storm can only be resisted by strong institutions which enjoy the support and confidence of the people, not only strong individuals. Without such a mandate, even the strongest individual who enjoys the backing of a superpower like the United States will be washed away like a wisp of straw in a flood. The present era's history is evidence of the fact that any military dictatorship is a tasty morsel for the Red storm. In order to remain safe from the Red storm, one has to wage a war of independence, and only free people can fight for their independence. But when the qualities of subordination, servility, and bowing down before every false power are nurtured under a military system, then such a nation cannot fight a war of independence or be safe from the Red storm. Therefore, if we really wish to resist the onslaught of Soviet imperialism, then instead of taking away a nation's freedom we should steer it on the democratic path of basic human rights and heroism. The first steps in this direction are free and impartial elections — the schedule for which is awaited by the nation.

NAWA-E WAQT: Heavy Defense Weapons Production

GF080752 Lahore NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 30 Nov 84 p 3

[Editorial: "Manufacture of Heavy Defense Weapons — A Basic Need!"]

[Excerpts] Defense Ministry Secretary General (Retired) Major-General M. Rahim Khan has said that Pakistan's ordnance factories have reached the stage of self-sufficiency in the manufacture of light armaments, and now we need to plan the manufacture of heavy weapons — tanks, cannons, warships, and aviation — so that the country can become self-sufficient in this department. He was speaking at a defense technology seminar at Wah.

The Defense Ministry secretary general also explained that although heavy defense equipment is very important, the expenditure for its manufacture is phenomenal and a practical strategy should be planned, and that strengthening of defense is such a sensitive subject that there is no other recourse but to meet the need. For a country like Pakistan, the best policy should be to seek the collaboration and assistance of a needy country like itself so that expenses can be shared and a positive solution can emerge for meeting this need.

A defense industry is the fundamental need of every free and independent country; it is also a difficult, laborious, and complicated issue. While it requires research and experimentation along with technological ability, it also needs determination and a conducive atmosphere, especially in a country like Pakistan where the atmosphere is extremely important, and especially when external dangers are looming. This situation demands that the Armed Forces be equipped with the most modern armaments and always be alert to defend the country. It is also necessary to try and eliminate those conditions that burden the Armed Forces:

the dual responsibility of governing the country and defending its borders. Such conditions have continued for more than 7 years.

This situation can only be remedied by setting our house in order and promoting greater national unity. The political leaders should seriously assess the dangers lurking from outside and, instead of following the policy of "opposition for the sake of opposition," they should help to create conditions in which elections can be held peacefully and we can obtain the assurance that power will be delegated to the elected representatives of the people. All elements of tension and confrontation that cause uncertainty and misunderstandings among the people should be removed, and all our abilities and talents channeled toward constructive and defensive purposes.

NAWA-E WAQT Comments on Saudi-Soviet Ties

GF091014 Lahore NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu
5 Dec 84 p 3

[Editorial: "All This Has Been Caused by You!"]

[Text] After Jordan's announcement, Saudi Arabia has followed suit and announced it will resume diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union. [sentence as published] The reason for such relations with the United States' rival, the Soviet Union, is the United States' increasing pro-Israeli attitude. Saudi Arabia, which was very close to the United States, and perhaps still is, wanted topurchase some aircraft from the United States but they were given to Israel instead. The United States did not appear willing to sell them to Saudi Arabia. Hence, it was natural for SaudiArabia to be angered by this. The same thing happened with Jordan, and now it has announced that it will buy arms from the Soviet Union.

A Saudi prince has made a strange observation regarding the resumption of ties with the Soviet Union, saying that the Soviet Union is playing a positive role in the Middle East. The Soviet Union was the first country to recognize Israel. It has not only recognized Israel but it has been regularly sending technical experts to Israel. [sentence as published] But one fact is not hidden from Saudi Arabia: Whether it is the Soviet Union or the United States, neither superpower is interested in the Muslims,and despite their mutual rivalry they are unanimous in their policy of harming those who are followers of Islam. Take Afghanistan for example: The Soviet Union is doing what it pleases despite worldwide criticism, and it is shedding the blood of the helpless mujahidin. It is a well-known fact that it is the United States' dearest wish to see the Soviet Union remain embroiled in Afghanistan.

BANGLADESH

Victory Day Release of Prisoners, Detainees Set

BK131721 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] The government has decided to release 242 persons on the occasion of Victory Day [14 December]. The persons include 92 detainees under the special powers act and 150 undertrial prisoners. An official handout issued in Dhaka today said the government hopes that the concerned persons will appreciate this gesture and contribute their best to build up a happy and prosperous Bangladesh.

SRI LANKA

Government Expresses Regret Over Gandhi Charges

BK131648 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] The Government of Sri Lanka has expressed regret and dismay over a public statement made by Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. The government deplored its language, tone, and substance,saying that it could only encourage the terrorists and their supporters both in India and Sri Lanka to pursue further their nefarious activities. In a statement issued this evening, the minister of Foreign Affairs, Shahul Hameed, said that the patrol craft of the Sri Lanka Navy on patrol had on no occasion crossed the maritime boundary into Indian waters, nor had they on any occasion fired upon or attempted to arrest fishermen on the Indian side of the maritime boundary. The Indian authorities have been regularly informed that Indian fishermen have continued to encroach and fish in Sri Lankan waters and that these violations occurred well within the internal waters of Sri Lanka.

Mr Hameed said that 3,500 Indian fishing boats were sighted in Sri Lankan waters last year, and 3,234 were seen after October this year. If an Indian fisherman had been killed last Monday, as stated by Mr Gandhi, he said, it had not been in consequence of any action on the part of the Sri Lankan Navy.

The Indian prime minister had referred in his statement to a so-called surveillance zone in the narrow Palk Strait being used to attack, harass, and apprehend innocent Indian fishermen. Mr Hameed pointed out that with the escalation of terrorist activity, the Government of Sri Lanka was compelled in the interest of its own security to proclaim a so-called territorial and surveillance zone which is entirely within the internal and territorial waters of Sri Lanka.

These measures were adopted as a necessary safeguards to prevent terrorists, arms, and equipment entering into Sri Lanka from outside. Mr Hameed pointed out that it was unfortunate that the statement of the Indian prime minister had overlooked terrorist violence and brutal killings of innocent civilians from the majority and other communities directed at promoting a backlash of violence against the minority community residing in other parts of Sri Lanka. The statement had not acknowledged the defeat of that objective by the prompt and effective precautionary measures taken by the government. As the Government of Sri Lanka had repeatedly stated, these terrorist activities have been nurtured and controlled by the terrorist organizations which have received facilities on Indian territories. Terrorist leaders live openly in Tamil Nadu, make statements to the Indian press, and are received by leading Indian political personalities. Terrorist leaders address public meetings and advocate the setting up of a separate state and are supported by some of the politicians even in the Indian Parliament, making a standing mockery of New Delhi's repeated declaration of respect for Sri Lanka's sovereignty, unity, integrity, and stability.

Mr Hameed said that terrorists arrested in Sri Lanka had admitted to the existence of training facilities and their own training in India. Indian publications and media have with photographic evidence publicized the existence of these facilities. Terrorist organizations based in Tamil Nadu have publicly claimed in the Indian press their responsibility for a number of terrorist acts. However, Mr Hameed pointed out that the Indian Government had chosen to turn a blind eye to the activities of Sri Lankan terrorists on Indian territory and a deaf ear to repeated representations of the Government of Sri Lanka regarding terrorists who are not only engaged in hostile activities against Sri Lanka but also publicly proclaim responsibility for their campaign of terrorist violence.

TULF Leader Meets With President Jayewardene

BK170527 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Excerpt] In Sri Lanka, the all-party conference on ethnic issue is to begin today. The Tamil Unted Liberation Front leader, Mr Amirthalingam, held discussions with President Jayewardene and some of his ministers on the draft resolution containing government proposals in this regard. The TULF leader later said that the party's partcipation in the conference will be announced this morning.

Talks With TULF Held; Murder of Tamils Denied

HK140700 Hong Kong AFP in English 0642 GMT 14 Dec 84

[By Neville de Silva]

[Text] Colombo, Dec 14 (AFP) — President Junius Jayewardene was holding a final round of talks with the leading Tamil political party today ahead of a crucial roundtable conference on the country's ethnic crisis.

Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) leader A.Amirthalingam told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE today that the talks with President Jayewardene were not concluded yesterday.

The last round was scheduled for this morning before the roundtable resumes for a two-day session which the president has described as the final stage.

President Jayewardene is to submit to the conference draft laws for greater autonomy and other measures to ease tension.

The conference comes amid continuing sectarian violence which has claimed at least 380 lives by official counts since a fresh wave of Tamil separatist attacks on November 19.

In the latest incidents, authorities said four "terrorist suspects" were shot dead when they tried to escape from army custody in the northern Jaffna region yesterday. A young couple was blindfolded and shot dead by terrorists, also in the Jaffna area, they added.

Meanwhile National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali strongly rejected a statement by the Tamil group "PLOTE" [Party for the Liberation of Tamil Eelam] that 65 Tamil civilians were "brutally murdered" and women raped by Sinhalese civilians in the north central province this week.

"This is an absolute fabrication and there is not a shred of evidence to suggest this," he told AFP.

He added that of the 700-odd "terrorist suspects" detained in two major security sweeps in the north, over 130 had already been released.

The island's 2.5 million-strong Tamil minority charges that it is discriminated against by the Sinhalese majority, especially in state employment and education.

President Jayewardene told a public rally yesterday that the roundtable conference was "reaching the end of its effort after 12 months of hard work."

He said the proposals would go before Parliament and even before the people for approval at a referendum if necessary.

"The solutions we propose will be the views of the majority who compose the conference and will apply not only to one part of the country but to the whole island. They will deal with not only one race but all the races," the president said.

The draft laws suggest the devolution of power through district councils with the right of the councils in a province to coordinate their work in such a way as to create provincial councils.

This would permit district councils in the northern province which is predominantly Tamil populated to form an overall institution to deal with many activiites relevant to the area. But the TULF and other Tamil groups find this autonomy insufficient and want regional councils which would mean an amalgamation of the northern and eastern provinces.

Tamils seeking an independent state claim the northern and eastern provinces as their traditional homelands and want them to be merged into one entity.

But this is rejected by all the major political parties and Buddhist and Moslem groups. The Moslems who also inhabit the east believe they will be discriminated under Tamil administration.

Mr Amirthalingam told AFP that the TULF Party told President Jayewardene that district councils fell short of their aspirations.

This is the major stumbling block to a comprehensive settlement on autonomy, observers said.

"Die-hards on both sides of the fence seem adamant and President Jayewardene's problem is to make them see sense," one observer said.

One other problem for the president is to get the support of the Sri Lankan Freedom Party (SLFP), the main opposition group, the observers pointed out.

The SLFP headed by former Premier Sirimavo Bandaranaike pulled out of the talks in early January and never returned. However the president is determined to go ahead with the laws despite opposition, the observers said.

Meanwhile authorities said that "terrorists" murdered 176 people between November 1 and December 12. The figure comprises 144 civilians and 32 security personnel, they added, giving no further details.

They also reported the seizure of a boat armed with a three-inch mortar during a security operation in Madigal in the Jaffna peninsula. This is the first find of such a weapon in a separatist arsenal, they said.

All-Party Meeting Adopts Resolutions on Tamils

BK140403 Colombo Overseas Service in Hindi 0130 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Text] The resolutions adopted in the all-party meeting convened to solve the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka will be published today. These resolutions will strengthen the unity of the democratic institutions in Sri Lanka. Their objective is to vest the institutions, like village zones and regional zones, with the president's powers. These decisions were made according to the wish of most of the participants, and we have to accept these decisions. This was stated by the president, Mr Jayewardene, at a [words indistinct] yesterday.

The president said that these decisions will change the worldwide opinion that we were impeding the way of the Tamils. Some countries were considering stopping aid to Sri Lanka. With the new resolutions, this situation will change. The president said to end terrorism we have to get foreign help also. The problems faced by both minorities and majority people should be solved. Along with this, terrorism should be eradicated completely. The government has been (?successful) in preventing terrorism to a certain extent during the past 2 months. To make this task successful, the security forces should be trained. Modern weapons will have to be bought. Much money will have to be spent. We will have to get weapons from other countries. Mr Jayewardene has promised that along with the development of the country, peace will prevail and terrorism will be eradicated.

Lands and Mahaweli Minister Gamini Dissanayake, addressing the meeting, said that the terrorism in the north is an unjust movement that (?started with) the murder of (Ayukthak Goriappa) in 1970. This is not a fight against Tamils or Sinhalese. Some leaders of south India want to establish a communist state in Sri

Lanka, but not an Eelam state. The minister stressed that the governemnt will do everything possible to eradicate terrorism.

TULF Participates in Conference

BK140748 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Text] The Tamil United Liberation Front has decided to participate in the all-party conference on ethnic issue in Sri Lanka which begins in Colombo this evening. The secretary general of the TULF, Mr A. Amirthalingam, told UNI [United News of India] that the decision was taken by the politburo of the party last night. Meanwhile, the Sri Lanka president, Mr Jayewardene, has said that his country is working on new peace proposals to resolve the issue.

Suspected Terrorists Killed in Escape Attempt

BK131616 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] The police yesterday raided the Walagoda Purana Vihara in Mandalapitiya and took into custody several articles. They included six automatic pistols, six blank ammunition, [words indistinct] guns and three 12-bore cartridges. The security forces yesterday shot dead four terrorist suspects when they attempted to escape from custody.

Musavi Condemns Media Bias on Hijacking Incident

LD131443 Tehran IRNA in English 1430 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 13, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi speaking to governors general from throughout the country, here Thursday condemned the biased propaganda of imperialist oriented news network on the hijacked Kuwaiti jetliner.

Referring to the role of the people in thwarting plots of enemies of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, he said that the government only through its reliance on people has been able to annull all the plots.

On the close ties between the people and the government, and its effect in solving the problems of the revolution and the Iraqi-imposed war, Musavi said that as long as such a unity existed all these problems would be solved.

He further stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran's government, because of its nature and the principles that it believes in, must truly serve the people and the people in their relations with the various government organisations should sense such a notion from the government employees.

On making use of service of the local people in each area, Prime Minister Musavi said that now the Islamic Republic of Iran was firmly established and therefore efforts should be made to use talents of each locality in the same area. He further stressed that the gap between big urban centers and other parts of the country which has been inherited from the previous regime should be ended.

Speech to Governors General

LD131658 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Excerpts] On the 2d day of the seminar of the governors general from all over the country, held this morning in the Interior Ministry with the participation of Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi, Minister of Interior Nateq-Nuri and Supervisor of the Plan and Budget Organization, Dr. Banki, the prime minister spoke about the continuation and strengthening of contacts between officials and the people and the continuous implementation of government policies directed towards the elimination of centralization.

The prime minister said: The vacuum which can be felt throughout the country in the management field is due to the close links between officials and the people and the clergy; these close links are among the most important factors in the advancement of our order.

The prime minister also remarked: In order to encourage the people of each province and in order to develop their inherent talents, we should make greater use of the local talents of each region. Today when the foundations of our system are stronger than ever before, we should pay attention to this necessity, and by making use of local forces of each region, we should train the future managers and executives of each region.

Mr. Musavi emphasized: Paying attention to the local culture of different regions and implementing policies which are in keeping with that culture, along with attempts to get rid of social and administrative corruption, are among the other most important duties of the governors general. In confronting these corruptions our system should adopt the harshest measures. Making greater use of the assistance of commissions which are in charge of investigating administrative violations and inviting people's support in expelling corrupt individuals from the system are also among the most important duties of officials. In view of the political implications of administrative corruption and in order to strengthen the measures adopted in fighting corruption, we have drawn up a bill which will be submited to the Majlis in the near future.

Referring to the stationing of prime minister's representatives in various ministries which has been carried out in accordance with the orders of the imam, the prime minister emphasized the need to fight factionalism and alignment games.He said: In order to make the greatest use of the capacities existing in each province, the governors general should adopt positions which would encourage all forces to exert their greatest efforts at working cooperatively. To achieve this end, it is necessary to avoid leaning towards any particular group or strata in the region, and to set up an efficient system of intelligence-gathering and analysis in the governors generals' offices.

Musavi Receives Turkish Communications Minister

LD131654 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] Veysel Atasoy, Turkish minister of communications, met and conferred today with Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi. The meeting was also attended by Hadinezhad-Hoseyniyan, minister of roads and transport. Economic issues between the two countries were studied and discussed and the Turkish minister called for the expansion of economic cooperation between his country and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Musavi, while describing the principles behind the foreign policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran, stressed the need for the expansion of economic relations between Islamic countries. The Turkish minister also met today at the ministry with Nabavi, minister of heavy industries. Nabavi stated at this meeting: If we, Muslim countries, through our efforts, can develop our industries to such a point that they become strong enough to withstand the onslaught of Western industries, we would be doing something effective. Referring to his recent trip to Turkey, Nabavi stated: Last year, with the cooperation of the Turkish Government, we imported 5 million metric tons of goods from Turkey, of which 623,000 metric tons related to heavy industry. He added: It can be forecast that the heavy industries portion of shipped goods will reach 703,000 metric tons.

Veysel Atasoy also called for greater industrial relations, including construction of ships and rail cars, and cooperation in solving minor problems in the field of shipping between the two countries. Negotiations between experts concerned with cooperation in the ship and rail car construction industries will continue.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Warns of Muslim Discord

GF140711 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Excerpts] Clergymen, cultural officials, combatant tribesmen, refugees from Nowsud, tribesman from Nowsud, Javanrud, Paveh, Ravansar, Bayangan, and Salas-e Babajani, [members of] Islamic councils of the rural reconstruction crusade, the Islamic council union of Hormozgan and Kordestan, and the Tehran fire brigade Islamic associations met the speaker of the Islamic Majlis last evening to mark the holy Prophet's birthday and Unity Week.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, referring to the harmfuleffects of discord and the merits of unity, said: Fifty Islamic countries are members of the United Nations. If each exercises its vote, they can sway world opinion. Whenever the Muslims are tyrannized, they can defend themselves. About one-fourth of the people of the world are Muslims. Sixty to seventy million Muslims live in the Soviet Union. In India it is said there are 170 million Muslims. In Great Britain there are 4 million Muslims, and in France 2 million. The workers in most important factories of the Western world are mostly Muslims. Similarly, the most important and geographically strategic areas are controlled by Muslims.

The Persian Gulf — this jugular of the world economy — is in the hands of followers of Islam but the enemy tries to capitalize on every pretext to create differences between Muslims. For example, in Pakistan they instigate street clashes, and in India and other places they indulge in mischief-making. The enemy always uses minorities in Islamic countries. We should therefore pay greater attention to this issue.

Differences between Muslims can be eliminated easily. Our problems do not stem from Hanafis, Malekis, or Shi'ites. Our important problems are political. For example, look at Palestine, where Zionists from all over the world have congregated and made the 2 to 3 million Palestinians homeless. They do what they wish there, using force. If the Islamic nations were united, if for example, they did not fight or embark on war for 2 years, and if they announced that Islamic countries would sever their ties with those who have links with Israel, and if we did not sell oil to those countries or buy goods from them, thenundoubtedly Israel would be shattered and destroyed. This is something everyone knows; it is not a new idea.

It is the same with OPEC. If OPEC is in the hands of oppressor countries, they are not ready to buy oil at even one dollar a barrel. Ten years ago, OPEC was shaken and the price of oil increased. The Islamic Revolution also had a considerable effect on the increase of oil prices. The oil factor can be quite decisive for Islamic nations. Of course it would cause problems for a year, but the Muslim people will happily and easily accept this hardship and the shortage of exchange and goods. They will cut buying and selling ties with pro-Israel countries.

The speaker of the Islamic Majlis said that minor differences on theological issues such as ablutions can be resolved with consultation between scholars. He said: One of the blows that the enemy has dealt Muslims is the closing of the door of theological exegesis [ejtehad]. When this door is left open, all issues can be solved. Regarding social or legal problems, we should take the opinion of the majority. For example, if an Islamic government takes over in Afghanistan and the Shi'ites are in a minority, there should be no further opposition, discrimination or (?derision) of any sort. All must try to benefit from the blessings of the revolution and an Islamic government and not permit divisive differences. This is the policy the Islamic Government is following successfully. It should be a model for all Islamic societies and nations. In Iran, the Sunni brothers have given their holy blood to safeguard the revolution, struggle against the counterrevolution, and defendthe Islamic borders and the Islamic Republic.

U.S. Prevents Citizens' Interviews on Hijacking

LD132145 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Excerpts] The U.S. Administration prevented two U.S. passengers of the hijacked Kuwaiti airbus from giving interviews to the news media. IRNA sent a dispatch from Washington which said: Two released U.S. passengers, during their stopover in Germany, in an interview with reporters praised the manner in which the rescue operations were conducted by Iranian officers and the manner in which officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran reacted to the hijacking problems. This angered U.S. authorities.

According to a report by the U.S. CBS radio network the authorities of the Reagan administration are displeased with the two released U.S. citizens' praise for Iran's steps aimed at rescuing passengers of the hijacked Kuwaiti aircraft and have exercised a form of press censorship with regard to remarks by the two.

On the other hand a Kuwaiti security officer who was on board the hijacked aircraft, in an interview to newsmen, rebutted the allegations by Western media that the hijackers had left the aircraft in the course of the 6 day-long hijacking. He said: No one replaced the aircraft hijackers in Mehrabad Airport. He also emphasised: None of the hijackers left the aircraft throughout the 6 day-long hijacking adventure.

U.S. 'Goaded' Kuwaiti Press Into Hijack Disinformation

LD131717 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 13 Dec 84

["Kuwait Press Goaded Into Disinformation Campaign Against Iran by U.S." — IRNA headline]

[Text] Kuwait, Dec. 13, IRNA — Efforts by Iranian authorities in dealing with the hijacking of a Kuwaiti airliner, which ended with a minimum of casualties, has put Kuwaiti officials and newspapers in a state of shock, and a number of them contradicting what they said at the height of the affair.

The contradictions indicate that although the ending of the hijacking was best for the Kuwaitis, however, their dependence on world powers has forced them to follow the positions of the superpowers.

Meanwhile, comments by the freed Kuwaiti passengers best reveal the truth of the matter:

Mohammad al-Jasir, the co-pilot of the airliner told *AL-WATAN* daily that Iran initially refused to allow the plane to land at Tehran Mehrabad Airport and rejected the demands of the hijackers. He noted too that Iranian authorities had no cooperation with them.

He said the hijackers feared Iranian forces, because they feared an attack on the plane all the time and Iranian authorities tried to weaken the hijackers' position by rejecting their demands.

He said the hijackers treated him well and never used abusive language and said their daily prayers.

A diplomat from the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry, Khalifah Muslim, told *AL-ANBA'* daily that Iranian authorities should be thanked for the effort they exerted from the moment the airliner entered the air space of the Islamic Republic.

He said the hijackers who had Lebanese accent announced the take [over] of the airliner by shouts of "God Is the Greatest" and "There Is No God But God", and their behavior indicated that they were pious people.

The Kuwaiti newspapers which can not prove that the Islamic Republic was involved in the hijacking publish such claims on the instigation of U.S. authorities.

AL-QABAS and *AL-WATAN* went further and said the "security forces storming of the airliner was a show."

AL-QABAS also quoted informed sources as saying that the American who was killed in the episode had said that he was working for the CIA.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,940

LD131520 Tehran IRNA in English 1425 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 13, IRNA — More than 130 Iraqi troops were killed or wounded over the 24 hours preceding Thursday when strongholds and moving columns of the enemy forces throughout the battlefronts came under fire by the Muslim combatants of the Islamic Republic of Iran. During these operations, 30 armament emplacements, three personnel-carrying vehicles, a command jeep, another vehicle and eight lookout posts of the Iraqi forces were destroyed.

Announcing the above in its 1,940th communique Thursday evening, the Joint Staff Command of the Islamic Republic's Armed Forces added that the Iranian patrol groups successfully carried out their reconnaissance missions in the northwestern theatre during the said time.

In the western operational region, some groups of Iraqi infantry forces were subjected to the Islamic defenders' fire which forced them to flee with some losses. In the above theatres alone, over 100 enemy troops were killed or wounded.

Iraqi fortifications in the southern fronts were barraged by the Iranian forces, who also killed at least 30 enemy soldiers smashing a command jeep, a vehicle and three watch posts west of the Arvand River during the afore-mentioned period.

Two more homes and two shops were hit in Abadan's inhabited areas by the Iraqi long-range artillery fire on Wednesday.

London KEYHAN on Clerical Opposition to Regime

GF131346 London KEYHAN in Persian 6 Dec 84 p 16

[Text] Is a front of clerical opposition to "Velayat-e Faqih" being formed? This question has become the topic of the day following the latest declaration by Grand Ayatollah Hasan Tabataba'i-Qomi in Mashhad. This declaration was issued at the request of Ayatollah Mehdi Ruhani who lives in Paris; it is basically a warning to those opposing the regime of Khomeyni not to become opposers of Islam in the course of their struggle with the Islamic Republic. Ayatollah Ruhani, who has been one of the religious leaders opposing Khomeyni for the past 6 years, published the text of the declaration by Grand Ayatollah Qomi last week.

In his declaration, he writes: These problems mainly stem from "Velayat-e Faqih" or guardianship of the public, and we should work to uproot one-man governments in Iran. The confusing situation in Iran is a good opportunity for social thieves and the ruffian classes. So beware, tighten your ranks, and watch out so that the enemies of Iran and Islam do not infiltrate your ranks.

An important point in Qomi's declaration is that contrary to Khomeyni who hates the name of "Iran," he repeatedly refers to Iran and the Iranian nation and refers to Iran ahead of Islam. He thus shows that Iran must be liberated first and maintained before the Iranian brand of Islam can be rid of the dangers currently threatening it.

Another well known clergyman opposing the regime, Ayatollah Sadeq Ruhani, also has published a declaration similar to Qomi's. He lives in Qom and recently met Grand Ayatollah Kazem Shari'atmadari at his home against the objections of Islamic officials. Apparently Ayatollah Vahidi also has issued a declaration in Qom rejecting Velayat-e Faqih.

Opposition Paper on Continuation of Esfahan Strike

GF131700 London KEYHAN in Persian 6 Dec 84 p 1

[Text] Esfahan — The complaints of the employees of the casting section of the Esfahan steel mill complex concerning cuts in their pay and benefits following a change of managers has filtered into a number of other units. According to sources close to the workers, there are over 800 workers, technicians, and engineers in the mosque of the complex where they are chanting slogans against the new management and asking for a change in the latest employment regulation which advocates 14 enforced hours of overtime [per week] as payment for any employee not going to the fronts. Only those employees who have spent at least 4 weeks at the fronts can collect normal overtime pay.

The new group of managers who have captured the complex are headed by engineer Mir 'Emadi who is a relative of Ayatollah Jalal Taheri, Khomeyni's representative in Esfahan. They have warned the employees that should they not return to work by 17 December — the date for the start of operations by smelter No.2 which has been cold for the past 5 years — they will be treated as disrupters and hypocrites.

We remind you that the second smelter of the complex cooled down during the strikes of 1979 and it has taken several years to restart it. The striking workers have sent some representatives to the head of Esfahan seminary and to Ayatollah Khademi, the direct challenger of Ayatollah Taheri, asking him to act as the arbitrator in the case and report the true facts to the officials, since he is a member of the Council of Experts and a man trusted by Ayatollah Khomeyni.

The strike by Esfahan steel mill workers, and a number of other limited strikes in Ahvaz Navard factories, the Arak machinery factory, and the Iran-Luleh industrial group in Tehran have caused a great deal of concern in the regime which is worried over the increase and expansion of such strikes.

According to informed sources, a number of sessions were held last week with the participation of labor, interior, and security ministers and a number of committee and Guards Corps officials to review ways of combatting these strikes. There is every possibility that the results of such sessions will be harsher treatment of the employees of such units whose demands usually are about their own guild.